

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are on appeal, of which claims 1, 10, and 13 are in independent form.

Appellant/Applicant appreciates the post-Appeal Interview with Examiner Sai-Ming Chan on February 12, 2009 in which the pending claims were indicated to be allowable. The Examiner further requested that (i) a terminal disclaimer over Application No. 10/625,365 (cross-referenced in the instant patent application at Paragraph [0002] as Docket No. 200300031-2; now issued as U.S. Patent No. 7,480,357) be provided; and (ii) certain amendments be effected in respect of the phrase "operable" in the pending claims so as to put the instant patent application in condition for allowance.

Responsive to the Examiner's comments, and without necessarily acquiescing in whatever putative correspondence is drawn between the claim sets of the pending patent application and of U.S. Patent No. 7,480,357, Applicant has enclosed herewith an appropriate terminal disclaimer in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.321. Additionally, claims 1, 10 and 13 have been amended as set forth in the present proposal.

A copy of the claims as amended as well as this paper are being forwarded separately to Examiner Sai-Ming Chan via email as requested.

Entry of the amendments and allowance of the present application as currently constituted are therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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